



• Municipal courts in context
 • Common characteristics
 • The role of municipal courts locally and nationally
 • Key processes
 • Challenges
 • Opportunities



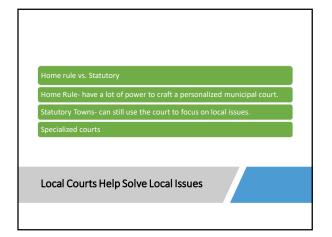
Types of Courts

Limited Jurisdiction Trial Courts

1.Traffic cases
2.Misdemeanor criminal cases
Most civil cases
3.1.ow level civil cases including non-criminal code violations cases in facture traffic & misdemeanor criminal code violations cases in 4 states (A, IA, IL, MN)
4.5ome specialty courts

Chen the appellate court for limited jurisdiction courts











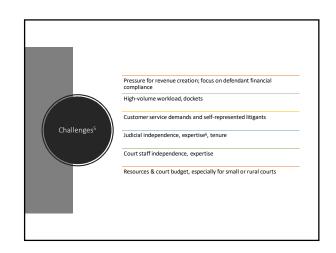
Things to Keep in Mind When Jail is a Possibility

- Does your court tell a defendant about the right to an attorney? (on the Record AND in writing)
- Does your court have a process to appoint an attorney to all indigent defendants facing a jail sentence? Grant Program!

Equation:

Jail sentence possible + indigent defendant = Free attorney

- Are jail sentences proportionate to the crime AND does your judge make a record as to why record?
- If a defendant is arrested on municipal warrant the court must see the defendant in 2 days or the jail will release on a PR bond.
- Monetary Bail not an option for certain municipal ordinance violations.



Fairness, Justice, Trust

- Do the court clerks, prosecutor, police officers and judge have clearly defined roles?
- Judge works for the City, but isn't an extension of the police or prosecution.
- What processes do you have to make sure the integrity of the Court cannot be questioned?
 - I.e.: Formal motions to dismiss rather than officer asking clerk to dismiss in person.

Ex Parte Communication

It's about trust.

We want citizens to trust the process.

Okay: Judge, it's important to us as a City to address homeless issues. We have a committee to find solutions, will you join us?

Not okay: Judge, Can you please sentence Joe the homeless defendant to jail?

- Wait until AFTER case is all done to ask questions;
- Potential pitfall- Zoning-- high publicity -- Dog cases

Opportunities⁵

- Models of leadership, governance, professionalism⁷
- Emphasis on problem-solving
- Broad-based collaboration with city & community partners
- Incubators for innovation⁸; use of evidence-based approaches
- Visibly demonstrate the role of courts as the third branch of government



What to expect in the next legislative session:

- Challenges to Outstanding Judgement
 Warrants
- 2. Bail Bond Reform
- 3. Other

Resources

- 1 http://www.courtstatistics.org/Other-Pages/State Court Structure Charts.aspx
- 2https://vimeo.com/18021845
- 3http://www.amjudges.org/publications/courtrv/cr53-4/PJ-Bench-Card-Full-Final.pdf
- 4https://www.ncsc.org/microsites/csp/home/otherpages/examining-the-work-of-state-courts/20122 ewsc.aspx

Resources, continued

- https://www.ncsc.org/sitecore/content/microsites/future-trends-2012/home/courts-and-the-community/3-6-limited-jurisdictioncourts.aspx
- 6https://www.judges.org/ (National Judicial College)
- 7https://www.courts.mo.gov/file.jsp?id=95287 (Best Practices)
- 8https://www.courtinnovation.org/
- namc@groups.io (Listserv for municipal judges)
- • Colorado Municipal League Municipal Court Handbook. Available on $\underline{\text{www. cml.org.}}$